

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 56th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

JOINT APPROP SUBCOMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN STEVE VICK**, on **January 6, 1999** at
8:00 A.M., in Room 405 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Steve Vick, Chairman (R)
Sen. Arnie Mohl, Vice Chairman (R)
Sen. Chris Christiaens (D)
Rep. Stan Fisher (R)
Sen. Dale Mahlum (R)
Sen. Debbie Shea (D)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: Rep. Red Menahan (D)

Staff Present: Skip Culver, Legislative Services Division
Linsey Mortensen, Committee Secretary

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and
discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing(s) & Date(s) Posted: **Public Service Commission (PSC)**

HEARING ON PSC FUNDING

EXHIBIT(jih03a01)

Introduction from Dave Fisher, Chairman for the Public Service
Commission.

EXHIBIT(jih03a02)

Wayne Budt, administrator of transportation and centralized services, talked about four topics which the LFD uses to decide on funding.

1. **Rent** - rent is not from state, but from a private party.
2. **Consulting Money** - money that may be used to bring in consultants.
3. **MT Universal Access Program (MUAP)** - would like funds carried into next biennium for libraries, health care facilities, etc. to get internet access.
4. **Staff Training Agreements** - would like additional \$13,900 in FY 2000 and 2001.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 0 - 14.3}

Proponents:

Karen Strege, State Library Commission, says because of delays in the Federal E-rate program, most rural libraries wait to be connected to high-speed telecommunications. Therefore, she urges you to approve PSC's request. **EXHIBIT(jih03a03)**

Lois Fitzpatrick, MT Library Association, states that many libraries are in the same situation as two years ago. High back haul costs prohibit some libraries from entering the information age. **EXHIBIT(jih03a04)**

Jeff Feiss, MT Telecommunication Association, says that because of uncertainty at the federal level regarding funding for schools, libraries and health care technology assistance, the MUAP implementation has been delayed. We do not believe it is necessary to raise any additional funds for MUAP.

EXHIBIT(jih03a05)

Barbara Ranf, US West, would like you to approve PSC's request.
{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 27.2 - 33.7}

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

Senator Mohl asked of the \$650,000 what would happen to the other \$150,000 if a fixed amount were set. **Wayne Budt** responded that it would be refunded back to the companies.

Senator Mohl asked how much of the \$100,000 is spent on consulting. **Wayne Budt** responded that it varies from year. The 100,000 is kind of a safety net.

Senator Christiaens asked that of the \$650,000 what will be the normal request. **Wayne Budt**, could not say exactly what it would be.

Senator Christiaens asked what if the request for money were greater than the 650,000. **Wayne Budt** responded that the if the money were not there than it would be pro-rated.

Senator Christiaens, asked about the length of time used for the staff training agreements and if any other agencies use them. **Wayne Budt** said that the agreement depends on the employee, but that they were not any longer than two years. He also believed that more agencies used the agreements.

Representative Fisher asked if you could drop the rate of the Universal Access Program instead of donating it back. **Wayne Budt** replied that the legislature would have to reduce the amount.

Chairman Vick asked what happens to the revenue that is generated, but not used by the agency. **Wayne Budt** replied that it is used in the calculations for the next fiscal year.

Senator Mohl asked if the agency can give the authority for increase with CI-75. **Wayne Budt** says that they can.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 14.3 - 27}

Senator Christians asked Shirley Moore, OBPP, if all the training agreements were treated the same. **Moore** replied that they all are done in the same way. **Christians** asked what other agencies do this. **Moore** said she would find out.

Chairman Vick asked if the agencies need to submit another proposal for a training agreement amount. **Shirley Moore** said that if they came into the office and asked for the request it would be changed in the computer template.

Chairman Vick asked Wayne Budt what their turnover rate was for training. **Wayne Budt** said that one year it was one out of eight and another was four out of eight. It depends.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 33.7 - 38.8}

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 8:40 A.M.

REP. STEVE VICK, Chairman

LINSEY MORTENSEN, Secretary

SV/LM

EXHIBIT(jih03aad)